POL 14 VIET S.

1408

15.

Department of State TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 811

PAGE 01 SAIGON 14186 010719Z

17
ACTION EA-15

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-08 L-04 NSAE-00
NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 AID-28 /087-01
/111 W

011281

P R 010345Z SEP 70
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0257
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
ONRUHHHQA/CINCPAC
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL DANANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14186

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

KATHMANDU FOR AMBASSADOR BUNKER

SUBJECT: UPPER HOUSE ELECTION RETURNS

REFS: A. SAIGON 14132
B. SAIGON 14140
C. SAIGON 14152

POL 14 VIET S

1. AS OF 10:00 A.M. SEPTEMBER 1 LOCAL TIME WITH 49 OF 50 AREAS REPORTING, PRELIMINARY AND UNOFFICIAL ELECTION RETURNS NOW GIVE MAU EDGE OVER CAO [illegible] TO [illegible] HUYEN SEEMS ASSURED OF VAP ODY IN [illegible] PLACE. THOUGH HIS LEAD OVER [illegible] HAS BEEN [illegible] TO 780,000).
VENTATIVE RETURNS FROM ONE REMAINING REPORTING AREA

(QUANG TIN) INDICATE THAT THESE RETURNS WILL PROBABLY NOT SIGNIFICANTLY [illegible] PURSUIT PROBABLE ORDER OF FINISH.

2. CENTRAL ELECTION COUNSIL IS NOW BEGINNING TO POST

(1)

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Dean Izzard DATE 1/22/82
XDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

R 9/11/70

SAIGON 14186

Department of State TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 14186 01 07192

ELECTION RETURNS ON LARGE BILLBOARD OUTSIDE SUPREME COURT.
BERGER

CONFIDENTIAL

ORIGIN/ACTION

EA-8

RM/R	REP	AF
1		
ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR 5
E	P	IO
L	FBO	AID 15
S/S 10	PM 2	S/PRS 1
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	AMB	AIR 5
ARMY 3	CIA 16	NAVY 5
OSD 3	USIA 10	NSA 3
ISC 6	VTC 1	

17 SEP 14 PM 4 34

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

POL 14 VIETS (1410)

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A-245 NO.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO : BANGKOK, CINCPAC FOR POLAD, DANANG, ELUNT, PARIS (2) VIENTIANE

FROM : Amembassy SAIGON

DATE: September 9, 1970

SUBJECT : Reactions to Senate Elections

REF :

RECEIVED ... Action assigned to ... Action Taken ... Date of Action ... Action Officer ... Name of Officer ... Symbol

1. SUMMARY: Prior to the August 30 elections, several newspapers expressed fear of fraud and the harm it would do to chances of settling the war through free elections. Post-election comment, however, indicates that most commentators believe the elections were, by and large, fairly conducted. Several newspapers and persons mention the poor showing of the political party slates, and they conclude that political parties are still weak in Vietnam. A great deal of attention has centered around the election of the Vu Van Mau "An Quang" slate. Some observers feel that it is a step forward in that An Quang will now participate in the democratic process. Hardlining elements fear that Mau and his colleagues will use their newly won seats to promote schemes for "immediate peace." END SUMMARY.

2. Pre-election Forebodings. Prior to the August 30 elections several newspapers expressed fears that the voting might be rigged. Cap Tien, voice of the Progressive Nationalist Movement, in an editorial prepared for election day, summarized the "disastrous" results of possible GVN manipulation of the elections: 1) Vietnamese would lose confidence in democracy; 2) the enemy would refuse to agree to a political competition, including elections; and 3) President Thieu would face "difficulties" if he plans to run for another term in 1971. Sometimes sensational but usually pro-GVN Doc Lap stated the importance of the elections succinctly: "Have not GVN leaders challenged the other side to agree to fair elections to settle the present war? What would be left of our cause and our challenge if we turned the elections in South Vietnam into a farce, a blatant fraud?" Oppositionist Cong Luan, often a sounding board for Senator Don and An Quang, asserted: "It is time the GVN held fair elections... (which), even if they bring the opposition into the National Assembly, can still provide the GVN with strong popular

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Drafted by: POL:JNach:jg 9/8/70

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CLASSIFIED